

**SUBJECT MATTER: Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments
H.B. #5037 AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE
BIENNIUM ENDING June 30, 2023**

**Independent Living Centers must have a
1 million dollars increase to
Properly Fund CT's Five Independent Living Centers
at \$1.75 Million**

My name is Richard Famiglietti of East Haven CT. I work for one of Ct's **Independent Living Centers**. There are **5 Independent Living Centers** in our state with each center providing services to people with disabilities within their own regions. There are 614,000 people living with a disability in CT.

Today I am requesting the state of CT to **increase state funding to the ILC's by 1 million dollars**.

I have been employed at the ILC in West Haven for **22 years**. I began my employment as a community advocate, accepted the position as a Transition Coordinator (t/c) for (NFTP) which was the FIRST Nursing Facility Transition Program and 2008 I continued as an MFP Transition Coordinator Supervisor. Today I now work at ILC as a Consumer Advocate/Programs Manager.

Independent Living Centers help the people acquire the skills, knowledge and identify resources enabling people with a disability and rely **LESS on others and state services**. We also help those falling through the cracks. Here is my example:

I received a call from a consumer (John Do). With extreme anxiety some anger and frustration. John explained to me his current PCP informed him she cannot refill his psych meds and he will need to find a mental health provider to refill his meds.

John reported his PCP gave him a short list of 3 MH service providers to call on his own to request to be seen. All 3 denied him due to covid and being at capacity.

I contacted DSS Member Engagement Services. I was then referred to Behavior Health Services. I was hoping Behavior Health Services would assist with making

an appointment. Instead, I was provided with a large list to give to John so he can call and hope there is an availability.

Finally, after 3 weeks John attend via phone intake with a MH-provider. Now the issue is John is required to attend first appointment with the Doctor needs to be by video phone due to covid and John does NOT have the tech or the know-how.

Now it is 5 weeks and still waiting for the doctor to agree to set up the appointment for John. The plan is for John to come to the ILC office so staff can set him up in private area for his video exam. We hope to have his appointment next week. **FUNNY HOW THERE IS NO ACCOMODATION FROMN THE MH-PROVIDER!**

Independent Living Centers are one of the few if not the only organizations who don't turn people away as John's PCP or deny services due to NOT having technology or receiving any reasonable accommodations by any health care provider.

John sometimes calls ILC for reassurance when he is overwhelmed during this time with no meds. John has been involved with very minor disturbances due to no meds. Without the peer support and assistance of the ILC John could end up in hospital or justice system. He certainly would NOT be this close to getting his medications.

All my years working at CDR, it seems every year we are on the budget chopping block. Every year IF recalled correctly we managed to get cut less. There were times we were zeroed out and put back in for less than previous year.

I am asking CT to increase its funding to the ILC's by 1 million dollars for total 1.75 million from Ct.

Submitted By:
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